

DRAFT Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission
8-1-2016

Meeting called to order at 7:36 PM

Attendees: Richard Leister, Ed Delia, Kinan Tadmori, Ed Delia, Ron Loria, David Ogens, Christine Lewis, Deborah Plotnik, Stephen Yellin

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from 6-20-16 approved

Meeting called to order 7:33 PM

Community Garden: Christine went to meeting, we have to fill out agreement and send it back. Expected to purchase certain items/equipment for garden. Need to schedule soil test, determine plants, etc. Of the 6 individuals who could originally help only 2 are still committed to being part of the garden. Christine needs another head gardener for grant, would prefer someone already on Environmental Commission – Ron volunteered to put his name as second head gardener. Richard also said EC can establish a committee, members of which would not necessarily have to be in the commission. That committee would report to the commission. We still have not gotten town approval for the community garden. Richard will meet with Anita (one of the head gardeners), Kevin, Christine, Ron.

Environmental Movies: Nothing to report.

Scout Projects: Ron will invite scout who reached out to him to next meeting.

Rain gardens: Richard looking for rain garden feedback/updates. Will ask grantor if we can increase rebate amount (from \$450 to \$900) to encourage people to move forward with the rain gardens. Columbia Middle School and Governor Livingston High School rain garden not started yet, supposed to start in August sometime.

Peppertown Park: Light weeding remains to be done. Next step is to get a sign made pointing out that this is a mostly native plant garden. Cost for the sign would come out of Peppertown Park fund (could be potential scout project).

Stormwater Ordinance: Richard has been reminding DPW to move forward with that.

Dog Waste Receptacles: No update. Remove from agenda. Side note: Richard – Sustainable Jersey has action related to caring for animals in town. Could involve a town resolution. Ron will look at Sustainable Jersey action.

CSIP Grant for EAB: Richard has not heard back yet. Recap: applied for grant for \$25,000 to treat ash trees in town as part of community forestry management plan

Street Fair: Thanks to everyone who came. Raffled off rain barrels, one person never claimed one of them. New winner chosen. 6 items raffled off total (plants and rain barrels).

Playground recycling: Bob Bocchino working on it.

Sustainable Jersey: Look at website for municipal profile for Berkeley Heights – shows what points that we will need to apply for, which are expired, and which are renewable. Looking to start on it at next meeting.

Watershed ambassador: Katie Ellis is no longer watershed ambassador, but we don't know who the new one is. Richard will try to find out.

New Business

Green Challenge Program - Kinan will be taking the lead on this as part of environmental stewardship project.

- Flyer – who what where when, colorful flyer – town council presentation, give them to the library
- Advertise to have them go to link to go to survey
- Paper vs. digital pledge – try as many avenues as possible
- Does it need incentive
- Name and address to confirm they live in Berkeley Heights
- Deborah will look into website

Dog Park in Berkeley Heights: Stephen brought up idea of dog park in Berkeley Heights. Lower Columbia Park is potential location that people have mentioned. Could help to control pet waste. Could potentially apply for grants for dog park. Also brought up desire for more biking and walking paths. Connell is putting in walking and biking paths. Would need to determine exactly where path could go and then apply for grants.

Plans

No plans to review

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM

Next meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2016

Respectfully submitted by Kinan Tadmori on August 13, 2016.